

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114  
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### **NOTICE**

#### ***PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN***

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Food and Agriculture must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities.

The following community is advised that the Town of Athol proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:**

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the City of Waltham as submitted by: Wendy L. Priestley, Ph.D. of Vegetation Control Services with Douglas Walsh, Superintendent of Public Works for the Town of Athol

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public hearing will be held at the following location:

Tuesday, March 31, 2015 from 11:00am until 12:30pm

Athol Town Hall, Room 21, 584 Main Street, Athol, Massachusetts

#### **Plans Available for Public Review Prior to Hearings:**

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the ROW Management Regulations provide: "At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request." Such request should be made to:

Douglas Walsh  
Superintendent of Public Works  
Department of Public Works  
584 Main Street  
Athol, MA 01331

Copies of the proposed VMP view at the Department of Agricultural Resources webpage at [www.mass.gov/agr](http://www.mass.gov/agr). The VMP is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Athol Public Library, 568 Main Street, Athol, Massachusetts

Written Comments Requested

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the City of Waltham's VMP until the close of business: Friday, April 24, 2015.

Commentary should be sent to:

Michael W. McClean  
Rights-of -Way Program  
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2151